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LISTEN TO THE MOCKING BIRD.

The Authorship of the Well-Known Peasants Carry Them Through the Song Almost Unknown. From the New York Evening Post. It is a curious coincidence that the real

author of "Listen to the Mocking Bird" should have died while there was running at one of our theaters a light opera constructed around an imaginary romantic The librettist in this case had expressly disclaimed any attempt at historical accuracy in the construction of the piece, but he was doubtless surprised to have supposedly authentic anecdotes about the mocking bird song appear on the heels of his piece of dramatic license. The very fact that the authorship of the song was so completely forgotten during the lifetime of its author that sentimental legends could be woven about it as thought ware a following of about it as though it were a folk-song of immemorial antiquity, shows how quickly a composition of this kind loses its identity and is credited to the prolific "Anon."

The monument itself may be as enduring as brass, but the inscription is quickly rubbed off. There is a moral in it, like Hamlat's speech about the great man's memory. let's speech about the great man's memory. The account which is vouched for as the true story of how Septimus Winner came to write the song is quite as unusual as the fiction. It was in 1852. Mr. Winner, then twenty-six years old, lived in Philadelphia. His opposite neighbor kept a mocking bird in a cage, and the young man often listened to its singing. One evening he was surprised to hear a duet instead of the single silvery song. The voice of the new singer did not sound quite familiar, and he ran on the curb, listening with puckered lips to the bird's song, and answering back in a clear whistle, was a ragged little pick-aninny. Winner found that the boy could sing as well as whistle, and asked him to come to his house. The song was made, or at least based on scraps of the negro boy's artiess improvisations. It is recalled

SACRED PICTURES IN RUSSIA. Streets to Invoke Blessings.

From the Syracuse Herald.

A picturesque ceremony is performed in times of public distress by the peasants of various parts of Russia. They bring from the churches the sacred pictures which adorn the walls, or the silken banners emstory of the composition of that very song. broidered in silk and gold figures which rest on the altars, and carry them in long procession to the prayer booths which they have erected in appropriate places. If drouth is ruining their harvests they build these votive booths near some river; if too much rain has fallen they build them in a neighboring field; if pestilence has smitten their villages they build them in the bury-

The moujiks of the village then gather about the church. With bared heads they wait while certain of their number enter and bring forth the sacred picture. This is often heavy, as in many instances it is framed in gold. But the peasants are not discouraged by its weight. They have made a rough frame in which they place the picture. Then the bearers grasp poies which are slipped through the frame, after the manner of a paianquin, and stagger with their sacred load over the rough road. The rest of the moujiks follow accompanied by their village priest, who leads in the prayers and chants. When the booth is reached the peasants kneel round the picture, supplicating for relief, and the priest sprinkles the field, river or burying ground with holy water. sprinkles the field, river or burying ground with holy water. After this service the picture is carried back to the church in the same solemn procession. This picture ceremony has been performed very recently in certain parts of Big Russia, where the fields have been deluged with rain and the crops have been in danger of destruction.

#### Modern Christmas.

#### NEW PUBLICATIONS

The spirit of research for historical mate rials has carried many writers into far less interesting fields than that chosen by Miss Wharton, whose previous works have proved of great interest and value as throwing light upon the social phases of the early American life. Her "Salons Colonial and Republican" was pronounced upon its appearance one of the notable books in a long historical series, so clearly did she illuminate the subject. Her present volume is devoted to a consideration of the social life which marked the beginnings the social life which marked the beginnings of government at Washington, when, the war of the revolution having ended, the republic was settling itself for a mastery of its civil problems. The social factors which clustered here despite the discouragingly slow progress of capital-making were often of serious importance in the shaping of public policies. Then as never since did the salon exert an influence. Whereas now-adays social functions are regarded chiefly as a means of recreation and entertainment, then they were often significant of political ambitions and of even international activities.

tional activities. Miss Wharton has closely studied the story of the making of the capital. Her account of the foundation of Washington is succinct and avoids much of the fiction succinct and avoids much of the lection which marks some of the works on the subject. She traces the growth of the early social establishments, defines the positions held, respectively, by members of the government and the old residents of the region and gives many interesting anecdotes of the social life which was transplanted to

of the social life which was transplanted to this comparative wilderness just as were the offices of government.

The book is illustrated chiefly with portraits of the leaders of the early American society. It is handsomely printed and bound, and makes a beautiful gift book which will arouse the interest of many readers in early historical matters.

JAPAN AND HER PEOPLE. By Anna C. Harts-horne. Illustrated. In two volumes. Philadel-phia: Henry T. Coates & Co. The author spent three years in Japan

learning all that a bright foreigner could learn in that time of the islands, the people, the customs, the history and the prospects. After her return she vainly tried to tell her friends all about it. In her introduction she says that visitors to Japan newadays at first write home many yards of letters on the thin rice paper of the region, then the letters become shorter and finally, in despair of the task of giving a really com-prehensive idea of the true significance of Japan, the letters dwindle to a few pages each of diary-like notes of routine. The book is the result of this experience. She found too much in Japan to be told in letters or in conversations. She has spent her time well in putting her impressions into print. They are clearly stated, and beautifully illustrated. Her work includes a his-tory of Japan, which is a necessary basis for a complete understanding and apprecia-tion of the people and government of today. Descriptions of the cities and the rural re-gions, of the industries, of the customs, of the inhabitants and of the religious prac-tices are all inspired by an evident affection for the subject. Only by thus entering heartily into the Japanese spirit is a saisfactory work on Japan possible of produc-tion. In consequence of such a spirit the present author has evolved a comparatively compact work which will attract first be-cause of the external beauties of its dress and the care with which it is illustrated, and second and most lastingly by the pains taking manner in which the subject has been studied and presented.

NOTRE DAME DE PARIS. By Victor Hugo. In two volumes. Bertha Galland Edition. New York: A. Wessels Company. Washington: Wm. Ballantyne & Sons.

The dramatization of the novel now being enacted by Miss Bertha Galland is the inspiration for the present sumptuous edition, which presents the great novel in perhaps its most beautiful and attractive form. The text is printed in excellent type and on good paper. The illustrations have the dou-ble interest of picturing scenes from the story and showing the features and poses of living players. A fine portrait of Hugo forms the frontispiece of the second volforms the frontispiece of the second vol-ume. The novel is regarded by many crit-ics as Hugo's strongest, not even excepting "Les Miserables." However that may be, it is generally given a high place in the list of the world's novels. Its intensely dra-matic climaxes, its steadfast fidelity of folk-portraiture and its wonderfully vivid the contractions of the contraction of the contractions. action from scene to scene and sentiment to sentiment give it a charm which few

JUDITH'S GARDEN. By Mary E. Stone Bassett. Illustrations in four colors by George Wright. Boston: Lothrop Publishing Company.

There is more than earth and leaves and trees and flowers and turf in this story of garden. It is a peopled garden, not merey a place for the exertion of nature's efforts at germination and beautification. The human characters are the narrator, a The human characters are the narrator, a woman of refinement and keen observation and appreciation, and a witty, brogueblessed Irish gardener. The garden is a redolent place, and it suffers in no degree because of the fact that several gardens have lately figured in fiction and description. The workmanship bestowed on the making of the book is of the best sort, and the fresh suggestion of a garden which each green-bordered page affords gives the work a distinctive value of its own.

A CAPTURED SANTA CLAUS. By Thomas Nelson Page. Illustrations by W. L. Jacobs. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

Mr. Page has a way of making war seem almost beautiful by his delightful stories bearing upon sentimental phases of that dreadful institution. He has a method of statement which commands sympathy, a style of character drawing which arouses the highest and best feelings and heals wounds and stirs up a spirit of patriotism. It is impossible to read this little tale of war and Christmas without realizing that the great conflict which sent men into that the great conflict which sent men into combat against each other was not all brutal and degrading, was not all killing and merciless reprisal. The Christmas spirit was not dead, because it will never die. Nor was the kindliness of a true man for little children lessened because of the fact that in this particular instance the children were the offspring of a man whom circumstances had classified as an enemy.

AMERICAN MEN OF LETTERS—HENRY WADS-WORTH LONGFELLOW. By Thomas Went-worth Higginson. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. Washington: William Ballantyne & Sons. At the outset it was the plan of the publishers to include a life of Longfellow among the "Men of Letters Series," but the performance has been unavoidably delayed until that work, naturally to have been expected among the first, is now just off the press. But it is the more welcome, if possible, for the delay. Dr. Higginson ending the delay. Dr. Higginson ending the delay of the delay. Dr. Higginson ending the delay of the delay. Dr. Higginson ending the delay of the delay of the delay of the delay. Dr. Higginson ending the delay of the delay the press. But it is the more welcome, if possible, for the delay. Dr. Higginson enjoyed a close personal acquaintance with the poet, and is therefore qualified, as are few living writers, to tell of Longfellow's works, ideals, methods and life changes. He acknowledges that his biography rests partly upon the poet's brother's "Life," prepared sixteen years ago, but he calls attention to the fact that it contains new material gleaned from the manuscript correspondence of the first Mrs. Longfellow, received from her family and bearing upon the poet's early married life and first visit to Europe, during what the present author styles the formative period of his life. Next there is much material obtained from the manuscript volumes known as the "Harvard College" papers, showing the academical side of Longfellow's life. Finally there is a series of extracts from his earlier writis a series of extracts from his earlier writ-ings, not heretofore brought together, and showing his desire to employ American ma-terial and to aid in the creation of a native

WOLFVILLE NIGHTS. By Alfred Henry Lewis. New York: Frederick A. Stokes Company. Wash-ington: Brentano's.

The book is another collection of tales describing incidents in the west among the cowboys in the time when "simple justice" was dealt out by the citizens to wrongdoers without first resorting to the formality of courts and law as a preliminary to retribution for crime. The stories are of the same character as those with which many readNEW PUBLICATIONS.

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entertainment there is considerable information concerning one phase of western life in the stories. It is a book to pick up now and then for relaxation, after one has been engaged with more serious things.

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Distinction.

IN A TUSCAN GARDEN. New York: John Lane. The latest addition to garden literature will persuade many readers that gardens are really possible only in Tuscany, where weather and soil combine to favor man in his efforts to supplement and manage the beauties of nature. But it is not confined beauties of nature. But it is not connect to garden matters. It deals in a delightful style with Tuscan servants, the treatment of animals in Italy, the British tourist in Italy, Tuscan courts of justice and the pros and cons of settling in Italy, with a comparative balancing of the attractions of Rome and Florence. In short, it is a charming guide to some of the phases of Italian life which are generally phases of Italian life which are generally overlooked by tourists and always ignored by the guide books. The illustrations are in sympathy with the text and add greatly to the charm of the work. The anonymous author has a keen sympathy with nature, but believes that man can do much to af-front her in his so-called gardening.

AMERICAN MEN OF LETTERS-NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE By George E Woodberry. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

Of biographies of Hawthorne there is no ack, but the present work, intended to fit into the series which the Houghton-Mifflin press has been issuing for some time, empraces the best materials of all its predecessors and presents them, together with many direct personal reflections of the author, in a convenient and attractive form. The printed sources of this work are Haw-thorne's autobiographical writings, which are to be found in his works, including the are to be found in his works, including the "Note Books," not intended for publication; Julian Hawthorne's work, "Nathaniel Hawthorne and His Wife;" Mrs. Rose Hawthorne," and George Parsons Lathrop's "Study of Hawthorne." These have afforded a close view of the subject and, supplemented by citations from and references to works on the great novelist by his conto works on the great novelist by his con-temporaries, the present condensed biography becomes one of the most satisfactory

THE GIFT OF THE MAGIC STAFF; Paul's Adventures in Two Wonderlands. By Fannie E. Ostrander, author of "Baby Goose." Illustrations by Will Dwiggins. Decorations by Ella S. Brison. New York: Fleming H. Reveil Com-

Few children's holiday books possess the charm which this one secures from the combination of a clever fairy story and a series of exceptionally well drawn pictures, given a handsome dress. Paul in the story has some remarkable adventures which teach him wholesome lessons and widen his horizon. He returns home after a series of surprises a wiser and better boy.

Children will like this story because tells about a little girl. Young folks in

their teens will enjoy it because this same little girl develops into a charming damsel and becomes the center of a romance. and becomes the center of a romance. Adults will appreciate it because of its natural flavor, its strong and yet healthful bid for the sympathles and its clear-cut character delineation. It tells the story of a waif adopted by a western family, of her lonely trip across the country, during which she wins the heart of a wealthy man who in vain tries to adopt her himself, of her growth among the rough but kindly folks of the great southwestern prairie and finally her great happiness. Such stories are helpful. They teach many lessons and make the world seem brighter and purer.

#### Where Woman Rules.

There is a remarkable community in Abyssinia where the women, without holding meetings or agitations of any kind, have emancipated themselves. All the women work hard, while the men are idle; but by way of compensation the house and all it contains belong to the wife. At the least unkind word she turns the husband out at night, in storm or rain, and he cannot come back until he makes amends by the gift of a cow. The wife considers it a duty to abuse the husband, and if she were weak enough to show any love for him in life or grief at his death she would be scorned by her tribe. The wife, without any reason, may strike her tent and 50, taking with her one-third of the joint possessions. The husband, unless he is traveling, may not live out of his tent. men work hard, while the men are idle;

USE OF THE RIGHT HAND.

Prof. Cunningham pointed out how it is evident that as far back as we can trace | Physical Development of the Child" before man he was preferentially right-handed. | the Mothers' Club yesterday, deplored the Thus Dr. R. Lehmann-Nitsche had examined the bones of prehistoric men from southern Bavaria and had found that the clavicle and the long bones of the right upper limb were distinctly heavier and more massive than the corresponding bones of disposal goes to show that right-handedness is due to a transmitted functional preeminence of the left brain, and this functional pre-eminence was not a haphazard acquisition which had been picked up dur-ing the lifetime of the individual, it rested ipon some structural foundation which transmitted from parent to offspring. Mod-ern science, then, if we have correctly inter-preted Prof. Cunningham's meaning, would seem to show that there is a distinction in

seem to show that there is a distinction in nature of the right hand.

It is indubitably the one by which most delicate manual actions are performed, with one marked exception—namely, the fingering in the play of stringed instruments which are played with a bow. If, as Prof Cunningham, in referring to the crossing of the motor impulses, says, "it thus came about that the left cerebral hemisphere controlled and regulated the muscles of the right side, and its functional superiority over the right hemisphere was indicated by the subservient position which the left hand held with preference to the right, and the manner in which all manual acts which re-quire precision and skill, all the movements quire precision and skill, all the movements which specially required the higher guidance of the brain, were performed by the right hand"—if this be so, how comes it that the fingering of a violin, which surely is an act requiring the higher guidance of the brain, is always, so far as we know, performed by the left hand?

French Fight Against Seasickness.

From the Lancet. Those who suffer from seasickness may be glad to learn that a league for its prevention has been formed in France. The seciety is called the "Ligue contre le Mal de Mer;" it is under the direction of Dr. Mardeuf, who has founded a journal called Le Mal de Mer, and published a book, which professes to be a complete hygienic guide for those who travel by water. This small work contains a large amount of curious information. The first chapter is written to prove that there is such a thing as seasickness (it is "une veritable maladie"), a proposition which will be readily granted. The further contention that it can be avoid-The further contention that it can be avoided (otherwise than by staying ashore) and
that it is curable can hardly be said at present to be matters of common knowledge.
General and special cautions which should
be taken before starting on a journey are
given and a chapter is devoted to the behavior which should be observed on the

havior which should be observed on the day of departure.

On going on board the boat the traveler should walk about, whistle and sing, should he possess that accomplishment; if not, he should chat or regard a distant fixed point through binocular glasses. This latter practice is strongly recommended by M. G. Marguet of Chalons, who has found that the mere act of holding binocular glasses before the eyes has been sufficient to prevent sickness. This method of prophylaxis vent sickness. This method of prophylaxis has its counterpart in a tradition held by some British sallors to the effect that a man who falls overboard will never be man who falls overboard will never be drowned so long as he can be induced to enter into conversation. The English, we learn, strongly recommend the exhibition of "wisky," of cognac, of rum, of brandy, of chartreuse and of porter. Whether these remedies are usually taken separately or together we are not told, nor are the doses specified. The author recommends an alcoholic preparation of mint because he says. of respiration. In regard to food, Dr. Mar-deuf finds that fole gras and cream are apt to disagree. In the case of acute symptoms he recommends abdominal compression, concerning which he has much to say.

PHYSIQUE OF THE CHILD.

From the New York Tribune. Miss Margaret Lindley, speaking on "The

manner of teaching it in the average school and by the average teacher. "The graduates of our normal schools," she said, "have charge of the child from the kindergarten to the high school. The growing child is almost entirely in their the opposite side. All the evidence at our | hands. And what do they know of the effect of posture on health and physique? They lack enthusiasm and soul in the physical culture work of their schools. But they are not to blame. They are not specialists. All physical culture should be in the hands of specialists, like music or drawing. The supervisor of physical culture in the New York schools does as well as she can, considering the lack of financial support given her. There should be a di-rector of physical culture for every build-

ing, who should not only direct the exercises of the normal child, but should devise exercises for bringing the abnormal child up to the point of the normal. "The mothers must take up this matter themselves. The home must supplement the school. They must understand the little human machine, how to develop it, how to teach the little individual inside it, how to use and manage it. It cannot be expected that the teacher will do this. She has studied physiology too much and too abstractly, and she has only ten minutes a day for the physical exercises. The trouble is that we think of a human being as having a triple nature, physical, mental and spiritual. In reality, our nature is one and indivisible, and it rests on the physical as the temple on its foundation walls. Our education has been directed so entirely to

the institutions supposed to devote most attention to the physical it is only a side issue. The Greeks, the average of whose mental powers was so far above that of any moderns, based their entire educational system upon the development of the physic cal. It is a pity that physiology and paychology are ever taught separately in our schools. They should always be taught to

gether. "Sometimes mothers say, 'I know the exgood, but I thought they would not do them any harm.' They do harm because they fix the child in his bad postures. The spine is the radiating point of the whole body. From it radiate the nerves which control every muscle of the hody and carry out our will, and also the nerves which run to the internal organs and carry on their involuntary action and circulation. The involuntary action and circulation. The whole vitalizing force of the body radiates from the spine. Upon its position there depend largely the health and vitality of the body. Upon its posture depends the right position of every other part of the body. Exercises which leave the spine in a bad posture—and you can see them every day in our schools—are worse than useless. The games in the kindergarten are not sufficient for the physical development. I fail to see why a child old enough to have his fingers trained by kindergarten occupations cannot also have his chest trained by breathing exercises. The kindergarten games bear the same relation to the physical development of the child as historical novels do to history—helpful, but not adequate."

Rooms at Oxford. From the British Medical Journal. Many of the bed rooms used in college at Oxford are such as would not be permitted to be used in lodging houses, being extremely small and badly ventilated. In many cases such rooms were built centuries ago, and little or nothing appears to have been done in the way of constructing larger windows or providing other means of ventilation.

the development of the mental that even in NOTHING IF NOT CLASSICAL.

